Book 5

Arbaʿīn

Project Booklet

Under the Guidance of Moulana Nabi R. Mir (Abidi)

Please recite a Sūrah al-Fātiḥah for
the sponsors of this project booklet.

Important dates in Ṣafar

5th	Wafāt of Ruqayyah (Sakīnah) (by some traditions)
7th	Wilādah of Imām Mūsā al-Kāẓim (ʿa) (by some traditions) Shahādah of Imām Ḥasan (ʿa) (by some traditions)
17th	Shahādah of Imām ʿAlī ar-Riḍā (ʿa) (by some traditions)
20th	Arbaʿīn of Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa)
24th	Wafāt of Lady Zaynab (by some traditions)
28th	Riḥlah (demise) of Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ) Shahādah of Imām Ḥasan (ʿa)
30th	Shahādah of Imām ʿAlī ar-Riḍā (ʿa)

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who contributed to this booklet.

INFORMATION AND INSPIRATION:

Islam From the Start: Stand for the Truth craft
10 Minutes of Quality Time: Walking on Water craft
Crafting Chicks: Paper House craft

cover image: imamhussain.org

بِسۡمِ اللّٰہِ الرَّحۡمٰنِ الرَّحِیۡمِ

Salāmun ʿalaykum,

May Allah (swt) bless us, our families, and our communities.

Our sincerest condolences to the Imām of our time, Imām al-Mahdī (aj), our great Marājiʿ and scholars, the Muslim Ummah, and all the believers on the Arbaʿīn of Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa) and the shuhadāʾ of Karbalāʾ.

Imām Ḥasan al-ʿAskarī (ʿa) has described five signs of a believer, one of which is reciting the ziyārah of Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa) on Arbaʿīn. So, why has Ziyārat Arbaʿīn been especially mentioned as a sign of a muʿmin? In Ziyārat Arbaʿīn, we say:

وَبَذَلَ مُهْجَتَهُ فِيكَ لِيَسْتَنْقِذَ عِبَادَكَ مِنَ لْجَهَالَةِ

"...and [he] sacrificed his soul for You, to save Your servants from ignorance..."

The shuhadāʾ of Karbalāʾ wrote a page in history when they sacrificed their lives on ʿĀshūrāʾ. Then, on the 20th of Ṣafar, when the caravan of Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa), led by Imām as-Sajjād (ʿa) and Lady Zaynab, arrived in Karbalāʾ from Damascus, they accomplished something else. Instead of just going to Medina, they came to Karbalāʾ for tajdīd, to renew their promise to Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa), the promise to spread the message of Islam, of ḥaqq and truth, to the world.

On this day, Jābir ibn ʿAbdullāh al-Anṣāri performed the first visit, ziyārah, of the grave of Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa). When Jābir was pouring out his heart to Imām Zaynul ʿĀbidīn (ʿa), he said, "My Imām! Only a few people are with you and ḥaqq today." The Imām (ʿa) replied, "Don't look at just today; I see that the ones who support ḥaqq in the future are many." He was talking about us! Today, no one is talking about Yazīd or those who fought against Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa). Instead, tens of millions of people visit the shrine of Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa) and the shuhadāʾ in Karbalāʾ on Arbaʿīn. It is one of the largest gatherings in the world, even larger than Ḥajj. The day of ʿĀshūrāʾ was to help us come out of the darkness of ignorance and into the light of guidance. The day of Arbaʿīn is a renewal of our promise to stay with ḥaqq, and to show that we have not gone back into the darkness. My humble request to all of the parents and teachers is to communicate this message to the children.

In honor of Arbaʿīn, we are pleased to launch the Arbaʿīn Project Booklet. This booklet includes five lesson plans that have been put together in collaboration with scholars and educators. We pray these projects increase the love of the Ahlul Bayt (ʿa) in our children and instill in them the desire to perform ziyārah of Abā ʿAbdillāh, inshāʾAllāh.

Please remember in your duʿās all of the muʿminīn who are embarking upon ziyārah this year and for the whole Muslim Ummah, and bring awareness to your children so they can prepare for the ẓuhūr of Imām al-Mahdī (aj). Talk to them about everything that is happening in the world, especially to our Muslim brothers and sisters and the children who are being oppressed all around the world in Burma, Yemen, Syria, Kashmir, Palestine, Bahrain, Iraq, Afghanistan, India, Pakistan, and everywhere else. We pray that Allah (swt) gives us the tawfīq to actualize our duties and responsibilities.

With duʿās
Nabi R. Mir (Abidi)
Resident ʿĀlim of SABA Islamic Center

Introduction to Arbaʿīn

Objective: Children will be introduced to Arbaʿīn, how important it is, and learn about the significance of 40 days.

For the past 40 days, we've been commemorating Imām Ḥuysan (ʿa) and the martyrs of Karbalāʾ, and now our focus is on Arbaʿīn. This is a crucial milestone among several other significant dates, when we remember and show our love towards our Ahlul Bayt (ʿa). By reflecting on the struggles and oppression endured by Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa) and his family, we learn invaluable lessons in patience, strength, faith, and bravery. Our unwavering love for the Ahlul Bayt (ʿa) and following their examples in our own lives allows us to grow as better followers and strengthen our connection with Allah (swt).

The 11th Imām, Imām Ḥasan al-ʿAskarī (ʿa), has said, "The signs of the believer are five: praying 51 rakaʿāt [including mandatory and optional prayers], Ziyārat Arbaʿīn, wearing a ring on the right hand, prostration on dirt, and saying 'Bismillāhir Raḥmānir Raḥīm' in a loud voice."[1] Ziyārah of Arbaʿīn as a sign of a believer shows it has profound significance, so we should pay attention and learn the meanings. For example, one of the lines from the ziyārah is, "[Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa)]...sacrificed his soul for [Allah], to save [Allah's] servants from ignorance..." This tells us that Imām Ḥusayn's sacrifice was to save Islam.

Today we are going to make a special flag to remember Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa) on Arbaʿīn.

1 Shaykh Ḥurr ʿĀmilī, *Wasāʾil ash-Shīʿah*

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40 Stars Flag

Suggested Ages: 5+

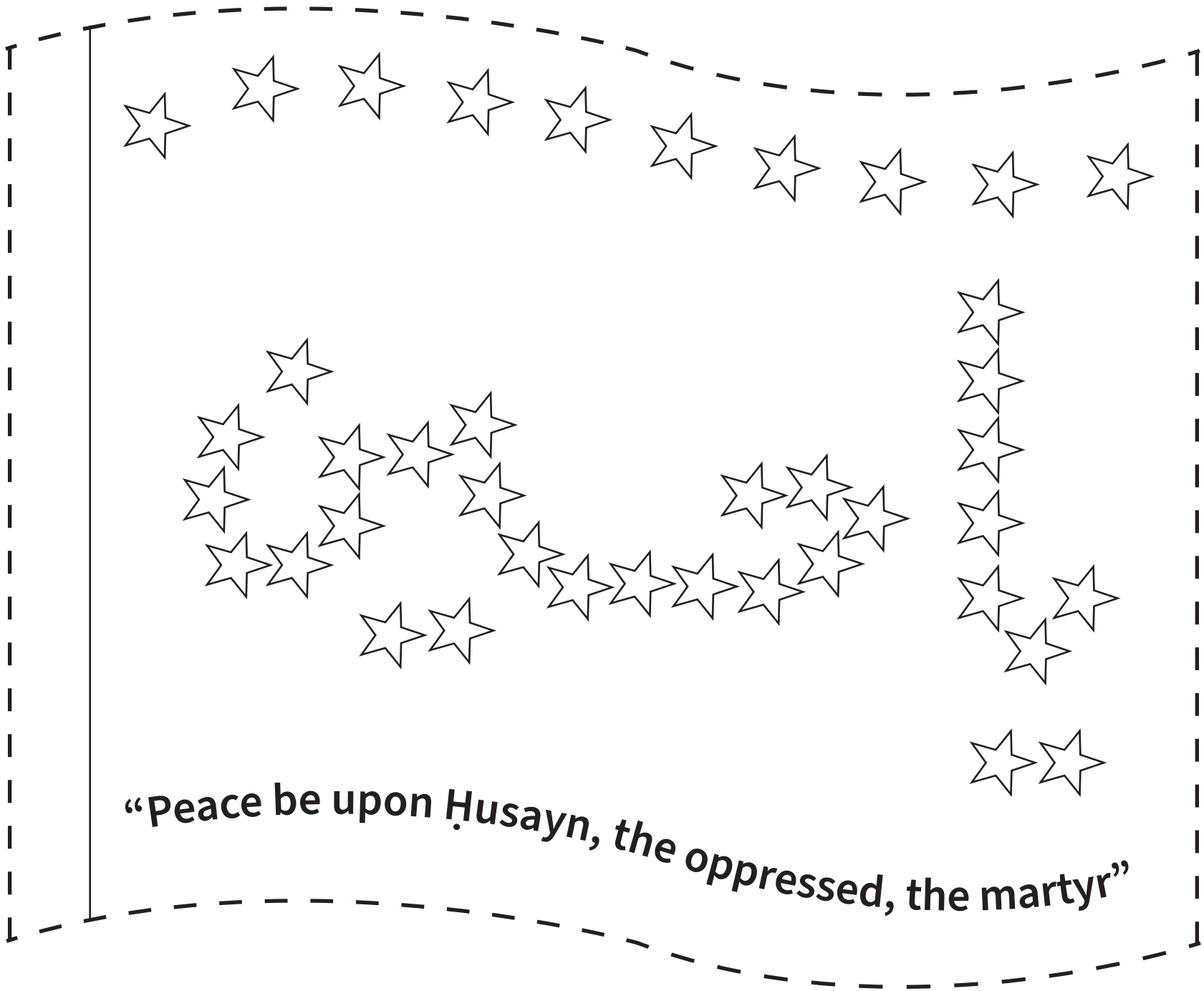
Time: 40 minutes

Materials:

- Flag template
- Crayons/colored pencils
- Scissors
- Straw/unsharpened pencil
- Glue/tape

Procedure:

1. Count all the stars on the flag, including the ones at the top. There should be 40 stars.
2. Color and decorate the flag however you like.
3. Carefully cut out the flag.
4. Glue or tape the flag to a straw or pencil. Look for the line on the left of the flag that shows where to attach it. Carefully wrap the flag around the straw or pencil just enough to make it secure.


“Peace be upon Ḥusayn, the oppressed, the martyr”

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Renewing a Promise

Objective: Children will learn why the caravan of Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa) came back to Karbalāʾ on Arbaʿīn.

Earlier, we talked about the importance of remembering the martyrs of Karbalāʾ on Arbaʿīn. When we remember Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa) on Arbaʿīn, attend majālis, and learn about him, it is a way of staying connected to him and the Ahlul Bayt (ʿa). But on Arbaʿīn, there is something more than just remembering and commemorating. After the events of Karbalāʾ, the remaining members of Imām Ḥusayn's caravan, led by Imām as-Sajjād (ʿa) and Lady Zaynab, returned to Karbalāʾ before going back to Medina. Why did they first come to Karbalāʾ before going home?

Firstly, they wanted to visit the graves of Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa) and the martyrs of Karbalāʾ, their loved ones whom they had been unable to mourn for so long. However, Imām as-Sajjād (ʿa) and Lady Zaynab also returned for another purpose: to do tajdīd, to renew their promise to Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa). They promised to spread Islam and truth to the world, and to show that Imām Ḥusayn's sacrifice was not in vain. Now every year on Arbaʿīn, after spending the past 40 days crying for and remembering Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa), we also want to renew our promise to support ḥaqq and spread the truth.

Today, we are going to make a project to help remind us of Imām Ḥusayn's message.

Stand for the Truth

Suggested Ages: 5+

Time: 40 minutes

Materials:

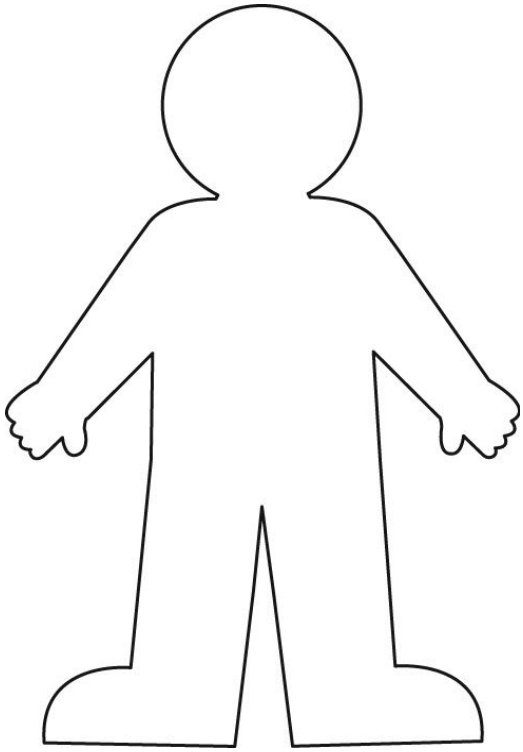
- Cut-outs template
- Construction paper (any color)
- Crayons/colored pencils
- Scissors
- Glue

Procedure:

1. Color the pictures in the cut-outs template however you like. You can make the person look like yourself.
2. Carefully cut out all of the pictures.
3. Take the construction paper and fold it in half widthwise.
4. At the folded edge, make two small, parallel cuts, about 1 inch long and 1 inch apart. Open the paper and push the cut part inwards to create a small pop-up.
5. Glue the person to the pop-up so it stands up when the paper is opened.
6. Glue the "Stand For The Truth!" title at the top.
7. Glue the rest of the images anywhere you like. Finish decorating the craft however you want.

Craft by: Islam from the Start

STAND FOR THE TRUTH!



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Ziyārah of Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa)

Objective: Children will learn about going for ziyārah and the Arbaʿīn walk to the shrine of Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa).

As we have learned, Arbaʿīn is a great opportunity for us to get closer to Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa), and thus get closer to Allah (swt). One way we can do this is by visiting the shrines of Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa) and the shuhadāʾ in Karbalāʾ on Arbaʿīn. People who are fortunate enough to have visited the shrine of Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa) on Arbaʿīn can tell you what a spiritually uplifting experience it can be.

Most people have to fly in a plane to get to Karbalāʾ, and some travel by bus or car. One very special act people do around the time of Arbaʿīn is walk from Najaf to Karbalāʾ. This walk is a great opportunity to practice self reflection and humility. Imām Jaʿfar aṣ-Ṣādiq (ʿa) has said, "Whoever leaves his house aiming at visiting the grave of Ḥusayn ibn ʿAlī if he is on foot, Allah will write for him for every footstep a good deed and will erase an evil (for him) until he reaches the vicinity of the grave."[1] This means that for every step we take towards Imām Ḥusayn's shrine, we are getting thawāb, or reward, and erasing our sins!

It is also a way for us to connect to Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa) and his caravan, who suffered so many difficulties. InshāʾAllāh may we all have the tawfīq and opportunity to walk to Imām Ḥusayn's shrine and follow in his footsteps. Today, we are going to make a small project that will motivate us to visit the shrine of Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa) in Karbalāʾ.

1 Ibn Qulawayh, *Kāmil az-Zīyārah*, P. 132.

Walking to Karbalāʾ

Suggested Ages: 5+

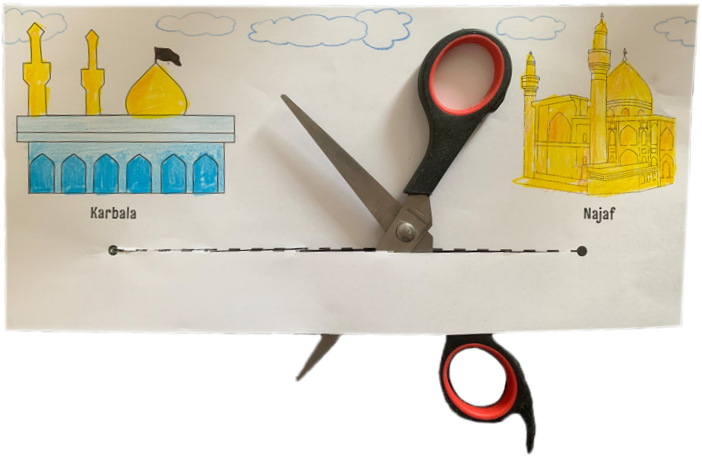
Time: 40 minutes

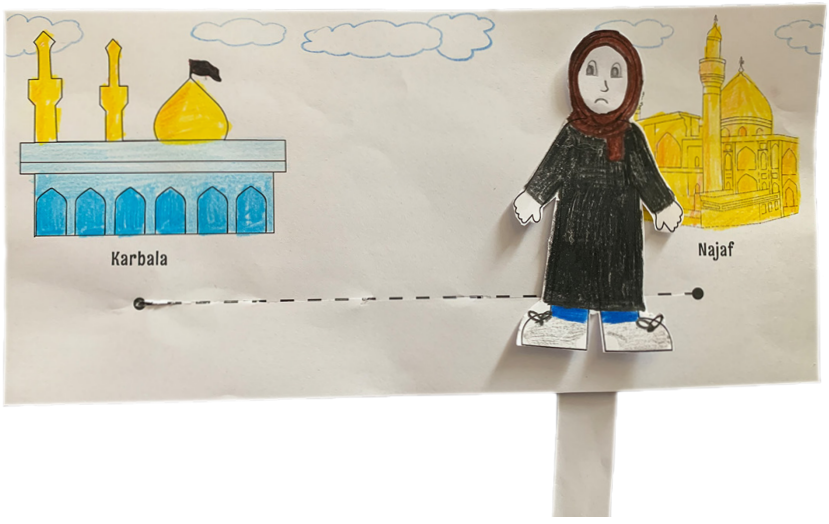
Materials:

- Walking to Karbalāʾ template
- Crayons/colored pencils
- Scissors
- Glue/tape
- Optional: Popsicle sticks

Procedure:

1. Color and decorate the pictures in the template. Make the person look however you like!
2. Carefully cut out all the pieces of the template.
3. Find the dotted line below the shrines. Carefully cut along this line to make a slit in the paper. Don't cut all the way across!
4. Take the small rectangle and fold it in half. Glue it together. Then, glue it to the back of the person (you can use a popsicle stick instead).
5. Slide the person through the slit and move them towards Imām Ḥusayn's shrine. It will look like they are walking to the shrine of Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa).





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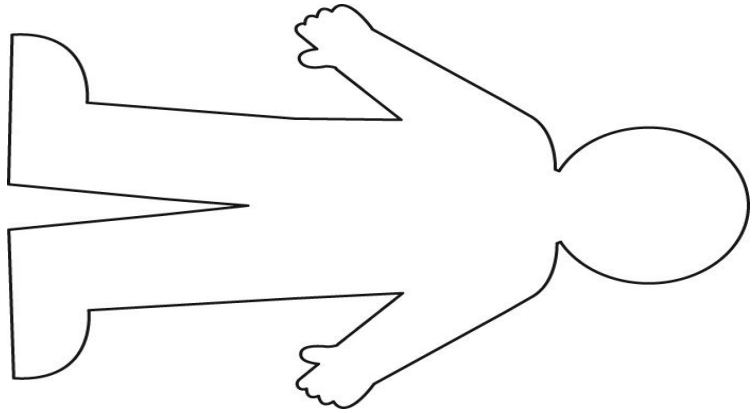
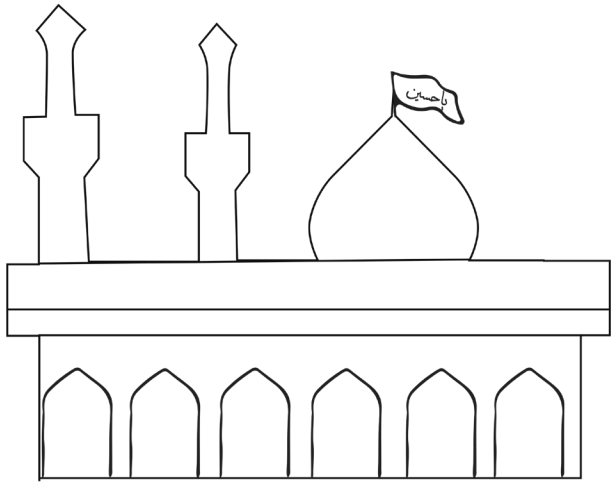
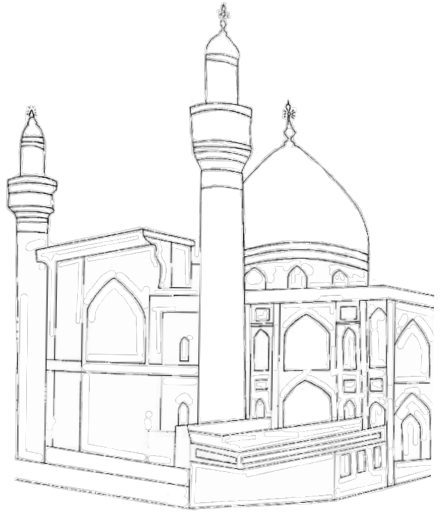




Karbala



Najaf

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Two Weighty Things

Objective: Children will learn about staying connected to the Qurʾān and the Ahlul Bayt (ʿa).

As the month of Ṣafar comes to an end, there are two of the Maʿṣūmīn that we remember: Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ) and Imām Ḥasan (ʿa). They both have the same shahādah date, the 28th of Ṣafar. Let's learn one lesson from our Noble Prophet (ṣ).

Once, the Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ) said, "I am leaving behind me two very weighty things for you: the book of Allah, the Qurʾān, and my family, the Ahlul Bayt. So long as you will remain connected with them after I am gone, you will always be on the straight path. They will never be separated from one another until they come to me at the side of the pond of Kawthar in Paradise." This ḥadīth became known as Ḥadīth al-Thaqalayn, the ḥadīth of the two weighty things. From this, we can see the importance of staying connected to both the Noble Qurʾān and the Ahlul Bayt (ʿa).

We should read the Qurʾān regularly and learn the lessons it has to tell us. And who better to help us learn what is written in the Noble Qurʾān than the Ahlul Bayt (ʿa)? They know what the stories and lessons in the Qurʾān are teaching us. In fact, they don't just teach us the lessons from the Qurʾān, they are living it! They are examples of the lessons, and they practice those lessons. That is why it is important to stay connected to both. Today we will make a chain to help visualize our connection to both the Qurʾān and the Ahlul Bayt (ʿa).

Paper Chain Craft

Suggested Ages: 5+

Time: 40 minutes

Materials:

- Paper chain template
- Crayons/colored pencils
- Scissors
- Tape/stapler

Procedure:

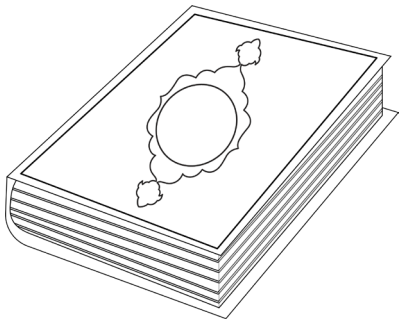
1. Color and decorate the pieces of the template.
2. Carefully cut out all of the pieces.
3. Loosely roll the Prophet (ṣ) piece into a circle and staple or tape it to make a closed circle.
4. Take one of the blank pieces, slide it through the Prophet (ṣ) piece, and join the ends to make a circle. Staple or tape it closed.
5. Do the same with the other blank piece, making sure the Prophet (ṣ) piece is in the middle.
6. Do the same with the Qurʾān piece and Ahlul Bayt (ʿa) piece on either end of the chain.

Ahlul Bayt (ʿa)

14
Maʿṣūmīn

Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ)

Noble Qurʾān



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A House in Paradise

Objective: Children will learn about the reward for loving the Ahlul Bayt (ʿa).

In the previous lesson we remembered Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ). Another maʿṣūm whose shahādah is on the 28th of Ṣafar is Imām Ḥasan (ʿa). He was the Noble Prophet's first grandson, the son of Imam ʿAlī (ʿa) and Sayyidah Fāṭimah (ʿa), and the brother of Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa). Let's learn one ḥadīth from Imām Ḥasan (ʿa).

Imām Ḥasan (ʿa) once said, "He who loves us [Ahlul Bayt] with his heart, and helps us with his hands and tongue, will be with us in Paradise at the same house."[1] Imagine, staying at the same house as the Ahlul Bayt (ʿa) in Jannah! This ḥadīth shows that loving the Ahlul Bayt (ʿa) has a high level of significance. But just loving them isn't enough, we also have to show our love through our actions.

What are some ways we can help the Ahlul Bayt (ʿa) with our hands and tongue? We can help those in need and speak kindly to everyone, among many things. Today we will make a house that we hope to stay in with Ahlul Bayt (ʿa), inshāʾAllāh.

1 Shaykh Mufīd, *Al-Amālī*, 4th assembly, Ḥadīth #8.

Heavenly House

Suggested Ages: 5+

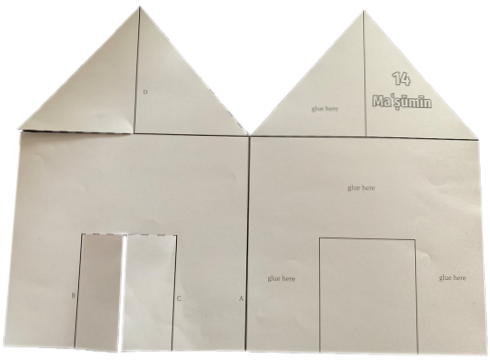
Time: 40 minutes

Materials:

- House template
- Construction paper
- Crayons/colored pencils
- Scissors
- Glue
- Other craft materials
- Optional: a small picture of yourself

Procedure:

1. Cut out the house all along the outer dotted edge.
2. Cut along the dotted lines in the middle and top of the door to make two flaps, like a door opening and closing.
3. Cut along the dotted line at the base of the triangle on the roof.
4. Fold along the lines labeled B and C. These are the "hinges" of the door that will open to show the inside of the house.
5. Fold along the line labeled D on the roof. This will open to show the 14 Maʿṣūmīn image inside the house.



6. Fold the template in half along the line labeled A. This should line up the two sides of the house. The door and roof flaps should be folded open.
7. Apply glue to the areas that say "glue here." Fold along line A and gently press down to stick the two sides together. Be careful not to glue down the door and roof flaps.
8. Glue the back of the house to the construction paper.
9. Color and decorate the house however you like. You can draw or glue a picture of yourself inside the house behind the doors.
10. Finish decorating the craft to show the house in Jannah. Make sure you can open and close the flaps to reveal what's inside.

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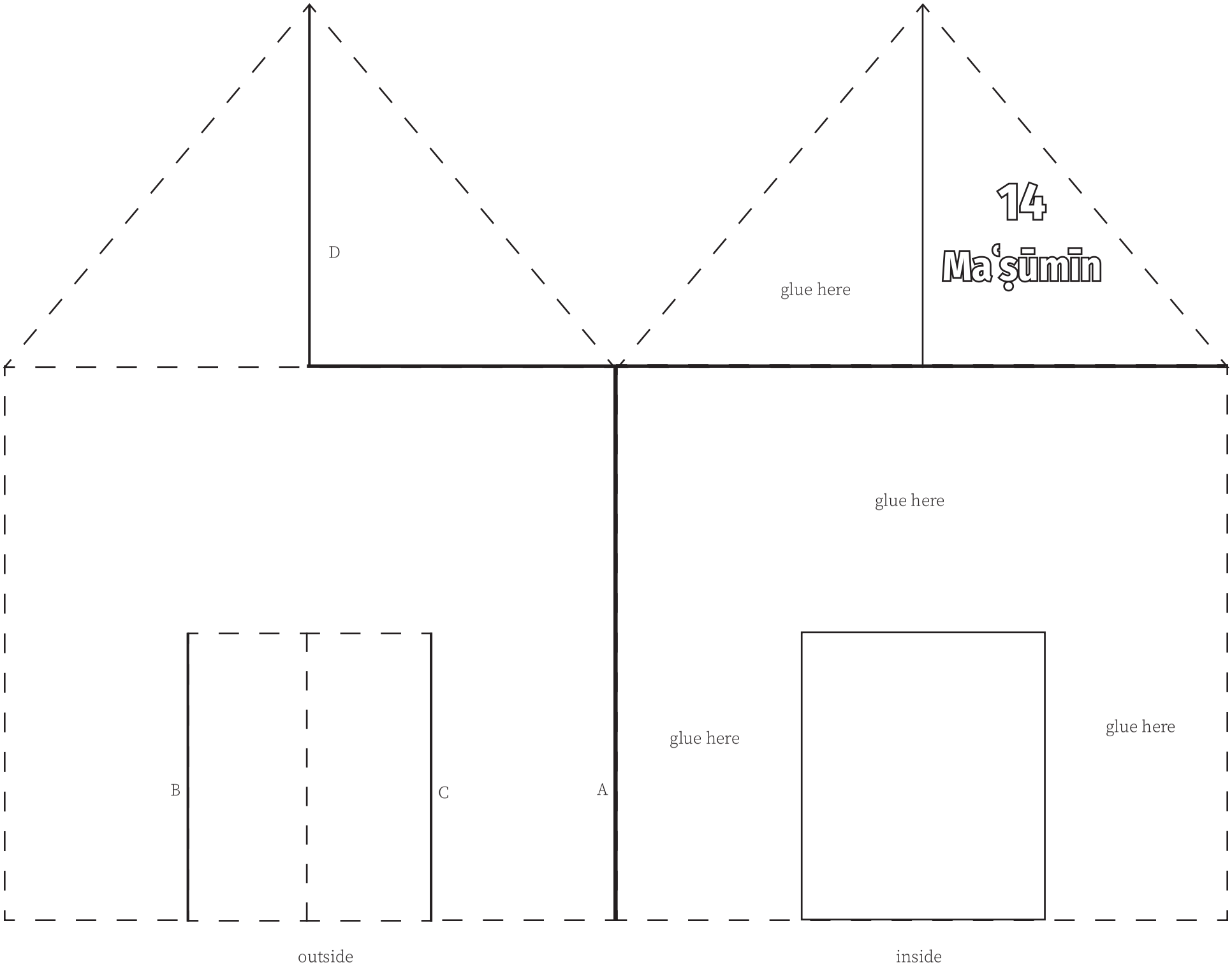
14
Ma'şūmīn
D
glue here
glue here
B
C
A
glue here
glue here
outside
inside

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AL-KISA FOUNDATION

UNDER THE CLOAK OF GUIDANCE AND MERCY